

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Original



"I."

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Received 4-23-03

To: Docket # 02-277

136 Documents

To Chairman & Commissioners

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

02-277

From: Dorothy Lavalle
To: KM KJMWEEB. Michael Copps, Kathleen Abernathy, Mike Powell, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 4/18/03 1:48PM
Subject: Media ownership - Letter to the FCC

Concerning AP article, "FCC Head Won't Delay Media Ownership Vote" by David Ho

Dear FCC Chairman Michael Powell, Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner Michael J. Copps, Commissioner Kevin J. Martin, and Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein:

I am extremely concerned with the consolidation of the media into a very few corporate owners. Already the promises of the 1996 changes to regulations have not materialized. There is **less** competition, not more. I, for example, must accept the poor programming provided by Cox Communications, the only cable company in my area - in fact, another infomercial station was added since I wrote my letters of complaint and concern. The situation for many will only worsen if there are fewer alternatives. Then I read the April 16 AP article by David Ho from which I quote:

The ownership rules include a ban on mergers between major television networks and a restriction preventing a company from owning a newspaper and a radio or television station in the same city. The rules also prohibit a company from owning TV stations that reach more than 35 percent of **U.S.** households. Powell repeatedly has said the rules should be changed. Two other Republicans on the five-member commission also are widely expected to seek looser regulations, an outcome sought by many large media companies who say the rules hurt business.

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APR 23 2003

COMMUNICATIONS

Critics warn that mergers resulting from looser rules could leave a few huge companies in control of what people watch, hear and read.

<http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&cid=536&ncid=536&e=4&u=/ap/2003>

Already our media news is very poor. Only one position, the government's, is provided. I now get my news from BCC and C-Span for the most part, and I'd be poorly informed were it not for my computer. But many people get their only news from the major cable stations. Since we as citizens must be informed in order to make decisions within our democracy, this is a very sad situation for our nation. You have the responsibility to at least provide alternatives to the corporate media to which we now are subjected - at the very least by making policy that encourages a variety of news and entertainment sources. Our media now is an ocean of imbecility for the most part, and it's a shame for all segments of the population, but particularly for the children. **It's** little wonder our children have such poor test scores, and the general population have such poor geographic recognition. But perhaps more competition would encourage better quality productions. We, the people, own the airwaves, you administer in our names. **It's** my opinion that you have the responsibility to encourage broader media production and ownership, not less, for the sake of our local communities and the national welfare. We "liberals" do remain half the population and our concerns should be equally considered. Surely Republicans are also worried by a consolidation of ownership, you have that historic apprehension for good reason. Looser ownership rules we do not need, quite the opposite. We need to control the influence of the market and corporations who have an profit agenda, and little responsibility to the greater social needs of the society, it seems. Please keep to the schedule, and allow the American people to express their concerns in the period until June 2, which is their right. **It's** only fair, and fairness is the core of our legal system and social system.

Sincerely yours,
 Dorothy Lavalle

EX PARTE OH LATE FILE[>

From: Jeff Bower
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 4/9/03 9:47PM
Subject: Comments to the Commissioner

Jeff Bower (jeff.bower@demandmanager.com) writes:

Say "NO" to the elimination of line-sharing!

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 12.228.216.106
Remote IP address: 12.228.216.106

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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APR 23 2003

From: Pamela McGaw-Green
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 4/10/03 12:57PM
Subject: Comments to the Commissioner

Pamela McGaw-Green(pm1381@sbc.com) writes:

Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

My purpose in writing is to let my feelings on the crisis in the Telecommunications industry be heard. I have been an employee of two separate Bell companies over the past 21 years; currently I am employed by SBC and think it is deplorable what is happening in our industry today.

The Bell companies have been out there investing in the Networks and creating jobs not only for Bell employees but also for the manufacturers and vendors who supply to us. We are good corporate neighbors. SBC and its employees give back to the community in many ways including through the SBC Foundation which invests millions each year in communities where SBC employees live and work. The Foundation matches employee donations to charitable organizations including the United Way, which recognized SBC for contributing almost \$99 million to non-profit organizations in 2001. The community also benefits through the millions of volunteer hours donated by members of the Telephone Pioneers of America.

SBC has always there to help put the pieces back together when there has been a major disaster. Most recently SBC and the Pioneers are raising money for care packages and calling cards for our troops overseas.

Being that SBC is a good Corporate Citizen I ask, why is this company being punished so severely by regulators? Every time I see Danny Glover on the television peddling MCI service it sickens me. MCI has been nothing but trouble for consumers for many years now. They have a major slamming problem and are laying off their employees in record numbers. Unfortunately, we are experiencing significant layoffs as well, not because we committed fraud, but due to the unfair regulations putting our employees out on the streets. And yet companies like MCI and AT&T are allowed to profit at our expense.

Mr. Ed Whitacre, SBC Chairman & CEO gave an excellent example of the unfairness in a recent interview with Fortune when he said, Its not unlike Anheuser-Busch bottling beer, and just as it comes off the assembly line, theyre forced to sell it to one of their competitors at 60% of their cost except in our case, we have to keep on maintaining the system too.

I am pleading to you to cut through the red tape, stop the slide of jobs, and to recognize the regulatory injustice that is having a terrible impact on the consumer and the shareholders who invested in the Bell networks.

Respectfully,

Pamela C. McGaw-Green
 1303 Muleshoe Pass
 San Antonio, TX 78258
 210-481-1585

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
 Remote host: 144.160.98.30
 Remote IP address: 144.160.98.30

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Jeff Bower
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 4/12/03 11:12AM
Subject: Comments to the Commissioner

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APR 23 2003

Jeff Bower (jeff.bower@demandmanager.com) writes:

Please save line-sharing!

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 12.228.216.106
Remote IP address: 12.228.216.106

From: Jonathan Rintels
To: CCC Mail List, CCC Press List, CCC Members, CDD Mail List
Date: 4/10/03 11:41AM
Subject: Center for the Creative Community Press Release

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APR 23 2003

All,

Below please find the Center for the Creative Community's press release regarding a letter written from the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy to FCC Chairman Michael Powell contending that the FCC's plan to issue final rules in its media ownership limits proceeding by June 2nd violates the Regulatory Flexibility Act. To comply with the RFA, the FCC must first analyze the impact of those specific rules on America's small businesses and then allow small businesses to comment on that analysis.

The SBA Office of Advocacy intervened after a request by the Center for the Creative Community, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization providing research, public education, and policy development on behalf of the tens of thousands of individual writers, directors, producers, performers, and other talented people who give life to America's popular and literary works of art and entertainment. The tens of thousands of small businesses and creative entrepreneurs who constitute America's Creative Community may suffer immediate and irreparable harm, depending on what specific new rules the FCC finally issues. Now, that harm must be analyzed before the FCC issues its final rules.

For your convenience, we have attached the press release and the testimony to this e-mail as an Adobe .pdf file.

If you have any questions or cannot read the release, please call us.

Thank you,

Jonathan Rintels
Center for the Creative Community
4009 Louisa Road
P.O. Box 297
Keswick, VA 22947

434-971-3699
509-355-3944 (fax)

FCC Plan to Issue Final Rules in Media Proceeding Unlawful Says Government Agency

Law Requires FCC to First Analyze Impact of Specific Proposed Rules on Small Business, Then Allow Small Business to Comment

Washington, DC, April 10, 2003. The FCC's plan to issue final rules in its media ownership limits proceeding by June 2nd violates the Regulatory Flexibility Act, writes the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy in a letter to FCC Chairman Michael Powell. Prior to issuing final rules, the FCC must first analyze the impact of those rules on America's small businesses and then allow small businesses to comment on that analysis.

The SBA Office of Advocacy intervened after a request by the Center for the Creative Community, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization providing research, public education, and policy development on behalf of

the tens of thousands of individual writers, directors, producers, performers, and other talented people who give life to America's popular and literary works of art and entertainment.

"The FCC states that its new media ownership rules, which have never been specified, will have no impact on small business. But as the SBA Office of Advocacy recognizes, a substantial number of America's small businesses will be impacted. In fact, the tens of thousands of small businesses and creative entrepreneurs who constitute America's Creative Community may suffer immediate and irreparable harm, depending on what specific new rules the FCC finally issues," said Jonathan Rintel, Executive Director of the CCC. "To comply with the law, the FCC must first issue specific proposed rules, analyze the potential effects of those proposed rules on small businesses, and then allow small businesses and creative entrepreneurs to comment.

"Today, the conventional wisdom is that a five hundred channel universe assures viewpoints from a diversity of sources and competition in the marketplace of ideas. But, as respected independent Wall Street analyst Tom Wolzien concludes in his research study dated February 7th, the reality of today's modern media environment is quite different. Five corporations, with their broadcast and cable networks, are now on the verge of controlling the same number of television households as the big three broadcast networks did forty years ago." In other words, today's five hundred channel universe is no more competitive or diverse than yesterday's three network universe.

"The public interest requires that FCC act in this proceeding to restore competition and voices to television. Research shows many Americans receive their information regarding democracy, politics, news, values, history, and culture from television entertainment programming. Thus, the stakes for our nation are far higher than whether we will all be doomed to a future of bland television. At stake are America's democracy, culture, and economy," said Rintel.

"The near extinction of creative entrepreneurs and small businesses has resulted in corporate, homogenized programming. While there are many highly regarded shows on television today, nearly all are independently produced, holdovers from when program source diversity was required. The networks themselves have produced little to take their place, as evidenced by NBC's decision to spend \$10 million per episode for one more season of Friends."

The CCC calls on the FCC to require that networks not exclude independently-produced programming from their primetime schedules. It proposes a new, flexible rule limiting the four largest networks - CBS, NBC, ABC, and Fox - to producing in-house or owning a financial interest in no more than 65 percent of the programming on their schedules. Smaller networks, such as UPN and WB, would be limited to 75 percent. New networks would have no limit. Similar percentages would apply to basic cable networks. Subscription cable networks would be excluded.

To further increase the number and breadth of independent voices on television, the CCC asks the FCC to monitor the success of small businesses, women, and minorities in placing shows on network schedules.

The CCC and the entire Creative Community is grateful to Thomas M. Sullivan, Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Eric E. Menge, Assistant Chief Counsel for Telecommunications, and the entire SBA Office of Advocacy for their efforts on behalf of small businesses, creative entrepreneurs, and, ultimately, the American public.

The SBA Office of Advocacy's letter to FCC Chairman Powell can be found at:
http://www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments/fcc03_0409.html more

The CCC's Board of Advisors is made up of numerous winners of Oscars, Emmys, Tonys, Peabodys, and other awards for creative excellence, as well as prominent members of academia, including:

- * Tony Adams, prolific producer, "Victor Victoria" (film and Broadway)

- * Hinton Battle, three-time Tony award winner

- Lionel Chetwynd, award-winning writer, director, producer.
- * Blake Edwards, award-winning director, writer, producer, one of only three recipients of the prestigious Preston Sturges Award given jointly by the DGA and WGA, awarded the French Legion of Honor, winner of the French Cesar.
- * Diane English, multiple Emmy-winning writer and producer, creator of "Murphy Brown."
- * Marshall Goldberg, award winning writer, former Chairman of the Writer's Guild Industry-Health Fund and Producer - Writers Guild Pension Plan.
- * Craig Haffner, President & CEO Greystone Television , Emmy Award winning Producer
- * Leonard Hill, prolific producer and leading member of the prestigious Caucus for Television Producers, Writers, and Directors.
- * Charles Holland, writer-producer, "Soul Food," Vice-president of the Writers Guild of America, west.
- Gregory Allen Howard, screenwriter, "Remember the Titans," "Ali."
- * Martin Kaplan, Associate Dean, USC Annenberg School For Communication and Director, The Norman Lear Center (as well as a screenwriter).
- Richard Masur, actor, director, former President, Screen Actors Guild
- * Sandra Ortiz, Executive Director, Center For Communication Law and Policy, University of Southern California School of Law & Annenberg School of Communication.
- * Dorothea G. Petrie, Emmy award-winning producer.
- * Frank Pierson, Oscar-winning writer, director, President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (the "Oscars").
- * Sarah Pillsbury, Oscar and Emmy-winning producer.
- * David Rintels, multiple Emmy and Peabody-winning writer-producer.
- Victoria Riskin, President of the Writers Guild of America, west, and award winning writer-producer
- * James Sadwith, Emmy-award winning director, writer, producer
- * Sissy Spacek, Oscar-winning actress

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jonr@creativecommunity.us

Contact: Jonathan Rintels
Executive Director
Phone (434) 971-3699
Fax (509) 355-3944
jorvr@creativecommunity.us

4009 Louisa Road
P O Box 297
Keswick VA 22947
www.creativecommunity.us

CENTER FOR THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY

Press Release

FCC Plan to Issue Final Rules in Media Proceeding Unlawful Says Government Agency

Law Requires FCC to *First* Analyze *Impact* of Specific Proposed Rules on Small Business, Then Allow Small Business to Comment

Washington, DC, April 10, 2003. The FCC's plan to issue final rules in its media ownership limits proceeding by June 2nd violates the Regulatory Flexibility Act, writes the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy in a letter to FCC Chairman Michael Powell. Prior to issuing final rules, the FCC must first analyze the impact of those rules on America's small businesses and then allow small businesses to comment on that analysis.

The SBA Office of Advocacy intervened after a request by the Center for the Creative Community, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization providing research, public education, and policy development on behalf of the tens of thousands of individual writers, directors, producers, performers, and other talented people who give life to America's popular and literary works of art and entertainment.

The FCC states that its new media ownership rules, which have never been specified, will have no impact on small business. But as the SBA Office of Advocacy recognizes, a substantial number of America's small businesses will be impacted. In fact, the tens of thousands of small businesses and creative entrepreneurs who constitute America's Creative Community may suffer immediate and irreparable harm, depending on what specific new rules the FCC finally issues. "I said Jonathan Rintels, Executive Director of the CCC. To comply with the law, the FCC must first issue specific proposed rules, analyze the potential effects of those proposed rules on small businesses, and then allow small businesses and creative entrepreneurs to comment.

Today, the conventional wisdom is that a five hundred channel universe assures viewpoints from a diversity of sources and competition in the marketplace of ideas. But, as respected independent Wall Street analyst Tom Wolzien concludes in his research study dated February

For immediate Release April 10, 2003

more

Center for the Creative Community
Press Release – "FCC Plan Is Final Rules Unlawful"

April 10, 2003
Page 2 of 3

7th, the reality of today's modern media environment is quite different. Five corporations, with their broadcast and cable networks, are now on the verge of controlling the same number of television households as the big three broadcast networks did forty years ago." In other words, today's five hundred channel universe is no more competitive or diverse than yesterday's three network universe.

"The public interest requires that FCC act in this proceeding to restore competition and voices to television. Research shows many Americans receive their information regarding democracy, politics, news, values, history, and culture from television entertainment programming. Thus, the stakes for our nation are far higher than whether we will all be doomed to a future of bland television. At stake are America's democracy, culture, and economy," said Rintel.

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The CCC calls on the FCC to require that networks not exclude independently-produced programming from their primetime schedules. It proposes a new, flexible rule limiting the four largest networks—CBS, NBC, ABC, and Fox—to producing in-house or owning a financial interest in no more than 65 percent of the programming on their schedules. Smaller networks such as UPN and WB, would be limited to 75 percent. New networks would have no limit. Similar percentages would apply to basic cable networks. Subscription cable networks would be excluded.

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The SBA Office of Advocacy's letter to FCC Chairman Powell can be found at:

http://www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments/fcc03_0409.html

more

Center for the Creative Community
Press Release ... □ FCC Plan for Final Rules Unlawful

April 10, 2003
Page 3 of 3

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Hinmn Battle, three-time Tony award winner.

Lionel Chatwynd, award-winning writer, director, producer.

Blake Edwards, award-winning director, writer, producer, one of only three recipient of the prestigious Preston Sturges Award given jointly by the DGA and WGA, awarded the French Legion of Honor, winner of the French César.

Diane English, multiple Emmy-winning writer and producer, creator of "Murphy Brown."

Marshall Goldberg, award-winning writer, former Chairman of the Writers Guild Industry-Health Fund and Producer-Writers Guild Pension Plan.

Craig Haffner, President & CEO Greystone Television, Emmy Award winning Producer.

Leonard Hill, prolific producer and leading member of the prestigious Caucus for Television Producers, Writers, and Directors.

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Sarah Pillsbury, Oscar and Emmy-winning producer.

David Rintels, multiple Emmy and Peabody-winning writer-producer.

Victoria Rirkin, President of the Writers Guild of America, west, and award-winning writer-producer.

James Sadwith, Emmy-award winning director, writer, producer.

Sissy Spacek, Oscar-winning actress.

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From: Mark Motzer
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 4/10/03 3:20PM
Subject: Comments to the Commissioner

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APR 23 2003

FCC - Commission
400 - 4000000000

Mark Motzer (mkmotzer@aol.com) writes:

Hello Commissioner Adelstein:

It has come to my attention that the FCC is considering rules that would allow further consolidation of media ownership.

I would like to go on record as opposing these rule changes. Further consolidation would limit further the number of voices heard on the various issues that affect all of ~~us~~ as Americans.

If there is some logic that dictates that fewer voices in the public discourse is better for our nation and its citizens it escapes me.

It should be clear to all that more consolidation leads to less competition which benefits no one except the "monied interests" that Thomas Jefferson warned about.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Mark Motzer

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 152.163.189.70
Remote IP address: 152.163.189.70

From: Murphy, Richard
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 4/10/03 4:19PM
Subject: station ownership

Dear Commissioner,

I understand the FCC is considering relaxing the cap on the number radio stations a company can own.

I feel this is a wrong course for Radio. We are seeing the making of a monopoly in Radio broadcasting. At least with the advent of cable and satellite TV, viewers have choice. If one company owns a majority of the radio signals in a market, choice and variety is no longer an option to the radio listener. As a 20 year radio professional I have seen the industry consolidate and the quality and variety of product available to the community dwindle. Relaxing of these rules creates two major problems. 1. Small broadcast companies offering a different product and 2. unemployment.

1. Companies like Clear Channel eliminate any new competition to come to the market. I could open a hardware store today to compete with the one down the street, but because there are no new radio signals signing on. You have to buy what's available. In Denver to buy a decent signal you're looking at 80-120 million dollars, with the idea that Clear Channel owns a majority of Denver radio. Fair competition requires a level playing field. That currently does not exist in sales, and programming. Sales has to compete with Clear Channel saying to an advertiser buy station 1 and we will bonus your commercials on stations 2, 3, and 4. Programmingwise Clear Channel says to an artists play a show for one of our competitors and we will pull your music off all Clear Channel stations. Play concert for Clear Channel concerts or we will do the same. Relaxing the rules only makes a playing field favor large companies like Clear Channel even more. Where the mom and pop stations have no opportunity to offer any type of value or quality radio to the listener because of the big bully on the block. These companies realize they won't generate the advertising dollars of a Clear Channel but at least they should have a chance to come into the market and compete.

2. From an internal employment point of view relaxing the owner ship rules will allow companies like Clear Channel to implement their programming philosophy of an Announcer voice tracking multiple markets from one location. I know for a fact that one disc jockey will voice as many a 13 markets a day. 13 communities, cities, stations, with out local broadcasters being able to communicate to their audience. This practice is not only a disselvice to the listener but also is contributing to the unemployment of Americans. 12 Announcers out of work and that one announcer that is working is not making the salary of 13 Discjockeys. They are told to do it or lose your job to some who will.

We are on verge of Radio being controlled by a couple of companies in top 250 markets in the United States. Fair market competition and the employment of broadcast professionals like my self are on the verge of being a casualty of your decision. They days of 20 years ago where 30 stations in Denver owned by 10 -15 owners a thing of the past. tomorrow it could be 30 stations owned by 3 broadcast companies.

Diversity in the number of broadcasters in a market offers variety and

quality programming. The winner is the communities and the listeners served by those stations.

Thank for your time and consideration

Richard Werry
4268 South Argonne Street
Aurora, CO
80013

From: Stephen Wright
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 4/10/03 7:29PM
Subject: Comments to the Commissioner

Stephen Wright (swvend@aol.com) writes:

Dear Commissioner :

I understand that the FCC is considering relaxing media ownership rules further. I have a suggestion regarding broadcast rules.

I wish that the FCC would allow people or companies to own as many media companies they want, but that broadcast space be leased to a company for a period of five years.

Further, I think if you make it so that a company and its subsidiaries were allowed to only lease no more than a small percentage (10%) of a broadcast market, then we would see more diversity and a greater effort to please the public. These are, after all, the public's airwaves and should be shared and never owned by individuals or companies.

I find it amazingly ironic that large media companies want less government oversight and regulation, but use the government to crush competition and keep the public from trying to use some of its broadcast bandwidth (such as with low-power fm stations)

Thank you,

Steve Wright
1080 Milano Drive
Naples, FL 3103

Server protocol: HTTP1.1
Remote host: 64.12.96.139
Remote IP address: 64.12.96.139

From: Ferrance@aol.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 4/11/03 7:37AM
Subject: Fairness Doctrine

Please restore the Fairness Doctrine to ensure balance in the media. Thank you. Francis J. Ferrance.
Ph.D., J.D.

From: Carol Ann Goldstein
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps. KM KJMWEB. Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 4/16/03 2:10AM
Subject: I want a halt to media conglomeration and breakup of the media giants

4-15-2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell,
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,
Commissioner Michael J. Copps,
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin,
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein,

Regarding the upcoming FCC vote, further consolidation of the media in the false name of "deregulation" must be halted and in fact reversed. TV and radio news in the hands of a handful of profit-driven corporations has undermined our democracy more than any other modern force except the high cost of broadcast commercials during elections. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide crucial unbiased information to the public about most public issues, most notably the drive to war in Iraq. As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to break up the media conglomerates, to open the spectrum to a wide diversity of organizations and independent journalists, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

Thank you,
Carol Ann Goldstein
San Diego, California

Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo
<http://search.yahoo.com>

From: Jim Chase
To: Mike Powell
Date: 4/17/03 12:49PM
Subject: Please, Restore the Fairness Doctrine - Stop Media Conglomeration

Dear Commissioner:

Regarding the upcoming FCC vote, further consolidation of the media in the false name of "deregulation" must be halted and in fact reversed. TV and radio news in the hands of a handful of profit-driven corporations has undermined our democracy more than any other modern force except the high cost of broadcast commercials during elections. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide crucial unbiased information to the public about most public issues, most notably the drive to war in Iraq. As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to break up the media conglomerates, to open the spectrum to a wide diversity of organizations and independent journalists, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

Very Truly Yours,

/James R. Chase/
San Francisco, CA

Do you Yahoo!?
The New Yahoo! Search - Faster. Easier. Bingo
<http://search.yahoo.com>

CC: Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein,
senator@boxer.senate.gov, senator@feinstein.senate.gov, sf.nancy@mail.house.gov

From: Paula Thomason
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 4/17/03 2:01PM
Subject: Further De-Regulation and Consolidation of the Media

Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to reject further de-regulation and consolidation of the media.

There is nothing that means more to a democracy than an independent press. One only has to look at the Minister of Information in Iraq to see what a single voice in a large market means to truth and accuracy. Our nation was founded upon free and open debate. When you permit a single corporation to make the decisions about what is available for viewing/listening in a media market, you have effectively squelched debate.

If you make this decision based upon political leaning or corporate sponsorship, you will have ceded away one of the pillars of our society.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paula Thomason

Danville, CA

A free press can reduce poverty and boost economic development in poor countries but the success of newspapers, radio and TV stations in spurring development depends on their independence, quality, and their ability to reach a wide audience, says a new book published by the World Bank.

Free and independent media can expose corruption in government and the corporate sector, provide a voice for the people/citizens to be heard, and help build public consensus to bring about change, says the book, *The Right to Tell - The Role of Mass Media in Economic Development*. They can **also** help markets work better by providing reliable economic information, from small-scale vegetable trading in Indonesia and Ghana, to global foreign currency and capital markets in London and New York.

"To reduce poverty, we must liberate access to information and improve the quality of information," World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn says in a foreword to the publication. "People with more information are empowered to make better choices. Free press is not a luxury for just rich countries. It is at the heart of equitable development. Institutions such as a free media that support transparency and the empowerment of the disenfranchised are essential."

<http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/righttotelloverview.html>

From: JHRook
To: Michael Copps, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 4/17/03 10:24PM
Subject: Chicago forum

This is an example of what happens with a controlled press...

They decide what's news and not....

While They Were Sleeping Four weeks ago I put in a plug for an upcoming public forum at the Northwestern University School of Law on regulatory changes being considered by the Federal Communications Commission. Since that date I've heard from readers wondering if the April 2 forum was actually held. They hadn't read a word of coverage in the daily papers. They hadn't because there wasn't any. FCC commissioner Michael Copps was on hand -- he's highly skeptical of the kind of ongoing deregulation favored by, among others, FCC chairman Michael Powell and the Tribune Company, which stands to get even bigger if the process continues. So was David Crowl, senior vice president of Clear Channel Radio, which, thanks to deregulation, has grown from 120 stations in 1996 to 1,200 today. Tribune Company vice president Shaun Sheehan also participated. The working press stayed home. Send tips, tirades, and comments to hotype@chicagoreader.com

From: kathryn stallard
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 4/6/03 10:26PM
Subject: Comments to the Commissioner

kathryn stallard (stallarkk@lycos.com) writes:

I am a private citizen who is deeply disturbed by the rising monopoly of media by a few giant corporation. Both William Safire on the right and Paul Krugman on the left have written persuasive pieces detailing the dangers of media monopolies to our democracy. How can we possibly have an informed citizenry when corporations control the means of communication? The lobbyists for these powerful corporations sit before you and congress. All I can do is sit before my computer and send this plea on my behalf and on behalf of all my fellow citizens. Please do not allow deregulation and mergers to still diversity in our air waves.

Corporations now buy and control Congress, write legislation and regulations, circulate CEOs into government. Let us not forget that Mussolini's words: " Fascism should more appropriately be called Corporatism because it is a merger of State and Corporate Power."

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
Remote host: 66.136.216.249
Remote IP address: 66.136.216.249

From: Darlene Lancer, @sq.
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 4/7/03 2:21AM
Subject: Comments to the Commissioner

Darlene Lancer, @sq. (dlancer@netzero.net) writes:

Please vote to retain all media restrictions. Keep the airways in the public hands. Ownership by a few is already restricting the free flow of information and threatening our democratic rights. More voices are always better to obtain the truth. I was an attorney in the broadcast industry and both programming and news was better when the restrictions were even greater than today, when networks had to sell their programs to local stations. There was MORE COMPETITION, not monopoly.

Thank you,
Darlene Lancer, Esq.

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 198.81.26.166
Remote IP address: 198.81.26.166

From: DeeAnn Grummett
To: Commissioner Adelstein. Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps. KM KJMWEB
Date: 4/7/03 4:49PM
Subject: Fw: Proposed change on media concentration regulations

Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin, Adelstein;

I am forwarding a copy of my opinion message to Commissioner Powell to express my opposition to the proposed changes on media concentration. I do acknowledge the efforts of Commissions Copps and Adelstein to provide some public education and discourse on this important issue, but it is woefully insufficient

D. Grummett

---Subject: Proposed change on media concentration regulations

Commissioner Powell:

This is to express my strong opposition to further concentration of the media by relaxing the current regulations. Your job is to ensure real diversity, meaningful competition and protection of local media. Rather, your focus appears to be to assist the huge corporations with their quest to undermine a truly free media in their selfish pursuit of profit. Your claims that huge amounts of capital are necessary to provide good news are untrue and are leading to this dangerous concentration of power over news dissemination. The very proof of this fact is the (1) failure of most of the major television outlets to cover this important story at all and (2) the failure of the FCC to ensure a meaningful opportunity for the public to comment on these changes through full media coverage and numerous hearings throughout the country.

It is an absolute conflict of interest for you and other members to accept ANY financial assistance, gifts or benefits such as travel, lodging etc.. from those for whom you are responsible to provide OBJECTIVE oversight.

D. Grummett
Juneau, Alaska

From: Malcolm Steinberg
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: 4/7/03 9:50PM
Subject: Comments to the Commissioner

Malcolm Steinberg (mxsteinberg@yahoo.com) writes:

Mr Adelstein,
(the corrected edition)

Is it possible you guys wont sell-out to corporate interests? Is it possible that in the interest of the average citizen you might keep the large corporations from owning all the radio and television stations? Do you think we are all so stupid that you want corporations to tell us how to think?

Thanks for everything

gullible citizen

Server protocol: HTTPII.I
Remote host: 24.189.61.210
Remote IP address: 24.189.61.210

From: JHRook
To: Commissioner Adelstein, Michael Copps
Date: 4/8/03 1:01AM
Subject: Conflict and interests

Spokane, Washington

Sunday, April 6, 2003

Business

Conflict and interests

Staff illustration

Andrew Ratner - Baltimore Sun

News coverage of the war in Iraq. unprecedented in its frequency and immediacy, may influence something long after the war concludes: Who gets to own the media that provide the news?

The Federal Communications Commission has been ordered by Congress and the U.S. Court of Appeals to re-examine its rules on media concentration. It plans to decide on any changes perhaps by June.

The commission roughly set that timing last year. **Its** convergence with the U.S.-led attack on the regime of Saddam Hussein is purely coincidental. **But** the coverage from Iraq is apt to loom large in the debate, with one side arguing that it proves the boundless diversity of information in the Internet age and the other claiming that American media have been rendered timid by the creeping consolidation in the industry.

Current restrictions forbid a company from owning in a single city two of the top television stations or a TV station and large daily newspaper, or from owning stations across the country that reach more than 35 percent of the national audience.

If the FCC is inclined to allow a greater concentration of media -- and many observers believe it is -- the war coverage might provide added weight, and political cover, for that view.

There might be some irony in the fact that a patchwork of rules that began in 1941 out of fears of the rise of totalitarian regimes in Europe would be argued to be proved irrelevant because of 21st-century coverage of the overthrow of a totalitarian regime in the Middle East.

Advocates of increased deregulation of TV and print media, including FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell, have long argued that the Internet and cable outlets have vastly altered how the public receives information.

The recent war coverage proves that point, they say -- with round-the-clock reports on television and the Internet from journalists "embedded with soldiers on the battlefield as well as Web sources as varied as the British Broadcasting Corp. and Arab television station Al-Jazeera.

Powell recently told the Media Institute, a nonprofit First Amendment watchdog group, that he found it "thrilling to see the power of the media and its reach, and shocking to **see** war brought **so** close." The Iraq invasion exemplifies the need to allow media companies to expand to have the resources and efficiencies to cover global events, he said.

James L. Gattuso, a research fellow with the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington, recently